

Next weekend, on Saturday evening, I will be gathering with a bunch of parents, grandparents, staff, friends and supporters of St. Joseph School for our annual auction. It will be an evening of fun and laughter as we gather to continue the work and mission of Catholic education within our community.

We strive for academic excellence, which is why we are often revisiting our curricula, including this year as we hope to purchase new reading materials with our Fund a Need. Reading opens up our world, connects us to the past, stirs the imagination, and helps children encounter Truth. We also know that excellence looks different for each child, especially as we serve a number of children with greater learning needs. There is also a deeper wisdom and knowledge which we foster in our students, to see and know the things of earth and heaven. Our hope is to form these children entrusted to our care in virtue, to know Jesus Christ and discover his presence and will in their lives.

This year our auction is being held at Mary, Queen of Peace as we shift away from our usual (but much more expensive) Bellevue hotel venue in hopes of a more profitable evening, to invest more of our funds in our mission. Tuition never covers the cost to educate our children, hence the need for fundraising to continue this important work, to help our children grow in faith, hope and love, to pay our staff living wages, to offer scholarships to families to make a Catholic education possible, to take care of our buildings and fund maintenance and improvements, along with all the usual utility and other costs. It's a lot, but our children are worth it.

If you aren't able to join us, I would encourage you to make a donation to our St. Joseph School [Annual Fund](#), which every year seeks to bridge the gap between tuition and our cost to educate. Every bit helps – as it takes all of us banding together to foster the community that we want for our children to learn and grow in. Thank you for your support!